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However, these are but slight blemishes. The book as a whole is stimulating. The numerous references to sources are valuable. An index would have been welcome.

A. WOLF.

DR. CHOTZNER'S ESSAYS.

Hebrew Humour and other Essays, by J. CHOTZNER, Ph.D., Late Hebrew Tutor at Harrow. London (Luzac & Co.), 1905. Pp. 186.

THIS is a volume of sixteen Jewish essays written mostly in a light journalistic style. If we had an adequate supply of good English books on Jewish subjects, Dr. Chotzner would most probably not have thought it worth while collecting and publishing these essays in book-form. But in our present dearth of such books, the volume before us may be welcomed by many readers. The numerous Jewish literary societies now in existence may find this volume of essays very useful on occasions of difficulty or disappointment. The essays are all conveniently brief, unpretentious, and interesting.

The first five essays are devoted to Biblical subjects—"Humour of the Bible," "The Bible and the Ancient Classics," "Art among the Ancient Hebrews," "The Life of the Hebrew Women of Old," "Curiosities of certain Proper Names in the Bible." To the modern reader these essays may seem rather feeble. The author's attitude towards the Bible is ultra-conservative, and some of his remarks are quaintly old-fashioned. Deborah and Hannah were "composers of excellent odes," and their names, like so many other Biblical names, "prognosticated" and "foreshadowed" all sorts of things wise and otherwise. The identification of הרמון with חרם (forbidden) and *Harem*, is an etymological curiosity that bids fair to rival the identification of נחלת with the German *Nachlass*. What exactly does the author allude to when he remarks (p. 15) that the Romans "had already swayed the sceptre over the Hebrews in the year 50 A.D."? On the same page occurs the expression "inanimate life"; on the following page, the word "tutor" is very loosely applied to Nicolaus de Lyra in relation to Luther; on p. 29 the ancient Hebrews are credited with perfection "in science and the art of music." To these and similar loose expressions one must, of course, add the word Humour, which our author employs with remarkable latitude.

Dr. Chotzner is at his best when he comes to the more modern Hebrew writers. The three essays on "Immanuel di Roma,"

"Kalonymos ben Kalonymos," and "Isaac Erter," are by far the best in the whole volume. But all the essays are readable, and some of the author's metrical versions of select passages from Hebrew Humorists are creditable. For its size the book is certainly rich in variety. In addition to the eight essays already mentioned, it contains also brief essays on the "Talmud," the "Humour of some Medieval and Modern Hebrew Writers," "Yedaya Bedaresi" (who is here credited with מעדני מלך the poem on Chess, which the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, III, 18 a, VIII, 6 b, ascribes to Judah Leon Modena), "Abraham Ibn Chasdai," "L. Zunz," "S. D. Luzatto and Z. Frankel," "Heine," and "Modern Hebrew Journalism."

A. WOLF.